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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

APPLICATION OF

ROANOKE AND BOTETOURT TELEPHONE COMPANY

CASE NO. PUC990112

To implement Extended
Local Service from the
Troutville exchange to
the Buchanan Exchange

FINAL ORDER

On June 14, 1999, Roanoke and Botetourt Telephone Company ("R & B" or "the Company"), filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to the provisions of § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia. R & B proposed to notify its Troutville Exchange customers of the increases in monthly rates that would be necessary to expand their local service to include the Buchanan Exchange of Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc. ("BA-VA"). Telephone customers in the Buchanan Exchange had petitioned the Commission earlier for local calling to Troutville. Using a cost study prepared by BA-VA, the Commission determined the increase in monthly rates that would result from the expansion of the Buchanan local exchange area to include Troutville. Customers in BA-VA's Buchanan Exchange were polled concerning their willingness to pay higher rates for

local calling to Troutville. The majority of those responding supported the proposal.

A poll of Troutville customers in response to this application was not required under § 56-484.2 A of the Code of Virginia because the proposed rate increase for one-party residential service did not exceed five (5) percent of the existing monthly one-party residential rate.

By Order dated July 7, 1999, the Commission directed R & B to provide direct mail notice of its application to its customers in the Troutville Exchange. Affected telephone customers were given until September 2, 1999, to file comments or request a hearing on the proposal. On August 31, 1999, R & B filed proof of notice as required by the Commission's July 7, 1999, Order.

Twenty-two (22) comments were filed. Eighteen (18) comments objected to the application. Two (2) of the Troutville customers objecting to the application also requested a hearing. Four (4) customers filed comments in support of the application.

On September 17, 1999, the Commission's Staff filed its report on the Company's application. It recommended that R & B's application to implement Extended Local Service from the Company's Troutville Exchange to BA-VA's Buchanan Exchange be approved. The Staff noted in its report that the total number of customers in the Troutville Exchange is approximately 7,600.

It observed that although two customers requested a hearing, the number of customers requesting a hearing was less than that necessary under § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia to require a hearing, i.e., the lesser of five (5) percent or one hundred fifty (150) of the customers within the Troutville Exchange.

NOW, upon consideration of the foregoing, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that R & B's application should be granted, and that the Company should be permitted to implement Extended Local Service from the Troutville Exchange to the Buchanan Exchange.

Accordingly, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The proposed extension of local service from R & B's Troutville Exchange to BA-VA's Buchanan Exchange shall be implemented.

(2) R & B and BA-VA shall file the tariff revisions necessary for the proposed extension of local service.

(3) There being nothing further to be done herein, this case shall be dismissed and the papers filed herein shall be placed in the Commission's file for ended causes.